

**Town of Tremont, Maine**  
**Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (TSWRC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Tremont Community Building**  
**Monday, February 9, 2004**

1. **PRESENT:** Chairman John Buckwalter, Frank Gray, George Urbanneck, Beth Gott, and Elliott Spiker. Selectman Scott Harper was present at the beginning of the meeting.
2. **VISITOR:** Tim Gott, Lyle Dever, Lee Worcester
3. **CALL TO ORDER:** Monday, February 9, 2004 at 5:34 p.m.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Gray, Urbanneck moved to approve minutes from the September January 26, 2003 meeting; approved 4-0.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**Recycling Demonstration Project:** The committee discussed conducting a demonstration project to see if we can significantly increase the amount of recycling by placing receptacle containers in a convenient location, possibly near the Town Office. The pros and cons of various systems to encourage or even require recycling were discussed. Worcester noted that enforcement of required recycling would be especially difficult at EMR if each town handled the recycling issue differently.

Worcester also noted that he did not think cardboard is a big issue for Tremont since it comes mostly from businesses and Tremont is mostly residential. This will need to be determined. Worcester will work on getting estimates of the amount of cardboard and newspapers/magazines from each town.

The need for an education program to encourage recycling was discussed. Worcester noted that there has been little public discussion of recycling for years. It was estimated that about 50% of Tremont's residents take their trash to EMR and most of them recycle to some extent. An education program would probably encourage these people to recycle more. However, it is unclear to what extent an education program or providing a convenient drop off location, such as the Town Office, would encourage recycling for the households that have their MSW picked up. Beth Gott noted that they will pick up recycling when requested, but they have to charge an additional fee for this service.

The Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program is probably the best system ultimately. This program is used by a number of communities in Maine and across the US, but it takes about a year to implement properly. Worcester noted that EMR would work with towns on implementing PAYT, but it would be important that all the towns do it.

It was agreed that the demonstration project would be a good start. Tremont will need to initiate a serious education effort to get the word out that recycling can save the town significant money and can reduce taxes. Funds for the project will be requested.

6. **NEXT MEETING:** Monday, February 23, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.
  7. **ADJOURNMENT:** 7:50 p.m.
- Respectfully submitted, Elliott Spiker, Secretary (207/244-0910)